**Performance of food processing industries in Assam**

2278. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of food processing industries functioning in Assam at present, District-wise;

(b) the details of their annual production in terms of quantity and value;

(c) the details of incentives being given by Government to all units of the State; and

(d) how the farmers of Assam are being benefited from the said units?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Hood Processing Industries are both in the organised and unorganised sectors,

Hence, the information regarding the number of food processing industries functioning, Statewise, is not maintained centrally. However as per Annual Survey of Industries published in 1994-95 by Central Statistical Organisation of Ministry of Planning & Programme Implementation, in the State of Assam there were 734 food processing units in the factory sector having an output of Rs. 1921 crores approx.

(c) The Ministry provides financial as sistance under its plan schemes, in the form of loan or grant-in-aid to industry, Non-Government Organisation, Cooperatives, Research and Development Institutions and Human Resource Development Centres. The thrust area for the plan assistance are:—

1. Establishment of post harvest infrastructure including cold chain infrastructure.

2. Establishment of Food Processing Industrial Estates/Parks.

3. Setting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing industries.

4. Research & Development on food processing.

5. Human Resource Development in the food processing sector.

6. For conducting studies, seminars, workshops and exhibitions etc.

7. Establishment of Quality Control facilities.

(d) Setting up of food processing units improve valu addition of the agricultural produce, enhances income of farmers, generates employment specially in the rural areas and creates surplus for export of agro foods.

**Comprehensive action plan for food processing sector**

2279. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out a comprehensive action plan to harness huge potential for food processing;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise alongwith the present status for Maharashtra, in particular;

(c) the amount of investment made in this sector in each State during the last five years and impact thereof; and

(d) the details of F.D.I, proposals cleared/under implementation/under consideration for Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) For Promotion and growth of processed food sector in the country, Government has taken a number of policy initiatives, some of them are as under:

1. Most of the processed food items have been exempted from the purview of licensing under the Indus tries (Development and Regula-tion) Act, 1951.
2. Food Processing Industries have been included in the list of priority sector for bank lending.